

Fig. 9

~~a light source located along one side wall of said case;~~  
~~a light guide plate receiving light from said light source through a first end face;~~  
~~a reflector on a second end face of said light guide plate, said second end face being opposite said first end face;~~  
~~a light diffusion layer on a third face of said light guide plate; and~~  
~~a display plate on a fourth face of said light guide plate, said display plate having character portions through which light can pass.~~

18. (New) The illumination apparatus of claim 17, further comprising:

~~a transparent cover sheet covering said display plate, said transparent cover sheet being bonded to said case to provide a seal.~~

Sub 19

19. (New) An illumination apparatus comprising:

a case;  
a light source located along one side wall of said case; and  
a light guide plate receiving light from said light source through a first face, said light guide plate having character portions with desired shapes, said character portions being formed by at least one of concave portions or convex portions, said character portions being provided on a back surface of said light guide plate.

20. (New) The illumination apparatus of claim 19, further comprising:

a transparent cover sheet covering said light guide plate, said protective transparent cover sheet being bonded to said case to provide a seal.